



REVIEW OF THE WEEK OF JUNE 19TH 2006

MEET A BURNS STAFFER

NAME:

Dennis Carlson

POSITION:

Field Rep, Bozeman

ISSUES:

*Veterans Affairs,
Broadcasting, Forest
Service, Yellowstone*

HOMETOWN:

San Francisco, CA

COLLEGE / HIGH

SCHOOL:

*Modesto J.C., Oakdale
H.S., Oakdale, CA*

EDUCATION (con't):

*Christians in Action,
Long Beach, CA, 1982;
Montana Missionary
Institute, Churchill, MT
1983-1985*

MOST BEAUTIFUL

PLACE IN MONTANA:

*The Stillwater, Sweet
Grass country, Cliff and
Wade Lakes, the view
from a friend's home
between Circle and
Richey*

FIRST MET CONRAD:

*PAYS in Billings,
Summer, 1986*

CAREER HISTORY:

*Radio Broadcaster,
KBOZ ('86-'93), Anchor
& News Director,
Montana Television
Network ('93-'01), News
Director, Eagle Comm.
(01-'03)*

INTERESTING FACT:

*My grandfather Hancock
was a miner in Butte at
the turn of the century*

Burns: Support Growing for Japan Sanctions for Beef Embargo *Funding for Animal BioScience Facility at MSU Moves Forward*

On Thursday, June 22 Senator Burns successfully added an amendment to the fiscal year 2007 Agriculture Appropriations bill which would express Senate support for authorizing the U.S. Department of the Treasury to levy up to \$3.14 billion in economic sanctions against Japan if the beef embargo continues through the summer.

"It's time we open those doors," said Senator Burns. "Japan has been jerking us around with another stalling tactic. It's time they open the market." The Japanese beef embargo is estimated to cost the United States agriculture industry \$7 million per day.

Apart from the Japan amendment, the Senate Agriculture Appropriations bill includes funding to complete the construction of the Animal BioScience Facility at Montana State University (MSU), which will focus on cutting-edge education, genomics research and outreach. Research at this facility will help keep Montana's herd at the forefront of the livestock industry. In addition, the Ft. Keogh Livestock and Range Research Laboratory in Miles City received funding to continue applied genomics research in support of the Animal BioScience Facility.

"This is great news for MSU and for agriculture in Montana," said Dr. Tom McCoy, Vice President for Research at MSU. "This new facility will enable us to better train our young people for careers in agriculture and related fields in animal science. It will allow us to pursue research that will help ensure a safe food supply and consumer satisfaction. It will enable us to help stockgrowers, ranchers and others to improve animal health, be more efficient in production, add value to their products and derive a better, more stable income."

In addition, the bill which was reported out of the full Senate Appropriations Committee today, including at least 14 important Montana agriculture projects in Bozeman, Butte, Missoula, Sidney, and Miles City and statewide projects.

"We look forward to supporting these important projects for Montana, but our job is not done. I hope Senator Baucus will join me in supporting this bill and my projects on the Senate floor."

Burns Unveils St. Mary's Legislation

On Friday, June 23 Senator Burns introduced major legislation to repair and rehabilitate the St. Mary Diversion Facilities and the Milk River Project, which provide water for Hi-Line communities from Glasgow to Glacier Park.

The authorizing legislation, which falls under the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee, represents many months of coordination with the St. Mary's Working Group, an advisory council working to reconstruct the aging diversion facilities.

The Milk River Project and the St. Mary Diversion Facilities have now been in operation for nearly 100 years with minimum repairs and improvements. Together, the St. Mary Diversion Facilities and the Milk River Project, known as the "lifeline of the Hi-Line," affect approximately 70,000 people directly or indirectly and supply municipal water to about 14,000 people.

Senator Burns has called St. Mary's the "backbone of the region's agricultural economy providing water to irrigate over 110,000 acres on approximately 660 farms."

LISTENING TO MONTANA

Do you feel Flag Burning should be outlawed in an amendment to the Constitution?

Yes No Not sure

*Please send us your thoughts at:

<http://burns.senate.gov/flagburning/>

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Burns Unveils St. Mary's Legislation

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"I was pleased to introduce this legislation and appreciate everyone's efforts," said Senator Burns. "Montanans, especially folks along the Hi-Line, know the St. Mary Diversion Facilities are facing catastrophic failure as maintenance costs have increased with the accelerating deterioration of the aging facilities. We are committed to fixing this problem. Over many months, my office has worked closely with the St. Mary Working Group to develop legislation to address this issue. This project is my number one priority for this year."

Burns Demands Relief for Captive Shippers

On Wednesday, June 21 Senator Burns called for immediate action from federal regulators to address the mounting concerns of rail customers, especially those shippers served by only one railroad, at a Senate hearing. The hearing highlighted the growing concern that the lack of rail competition in many markets and the reluctance of the Surface Transportation Board (STB) to take action against abuses of monopoly power could have a detrimental impact on economic growth, job creation, and the pocketbooks of consumers. The hearing also demonstrated the widespread support for S. 919, the Railroad Competition Act of 2006, introduced by Senator Burns.

"I am not interested in re-regulating the railroad, but I am interested in captive markets," said Senator Burns. "We were not sent to Congress to stand idly by and oversee a monopoly."

Senator Burns requested the hearing to push for rail reform that expands competition for rates and service, specifically in captive markets like Montana. Shippers in Montana are held captive to just one Class I railroad, the Burlington Northern-Santa Fe Railroad.

Since the bill's introduction, a wide range of industries, small businesses, and members of Congress have joined Senator Burns' fight for reform to a rail system of captive markets. The legislation would address anticompetitive practices in the rail industry that restrict competition, as well as reform the STB to provide a workable forum for dispute resolution.

Burns Amendment Saves 500 ICBM Missiles Near Great Falls

On Thursday, June 22 Senator Burns successfully won passage of an amendment to delay a Defense Department (DOD) plan to cut our intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM) force by 50 missiles, as the Defense Authorization bill, passed in the Senate 96-0.

The Burns-Conrad amendment makes it the policy of the United States that the 500 ICBMs that the United States possesses in the three missile states (Wyoming, North Dakota, and Montana) may not be decreased to 450 for this year. It also requires the U.S. Air Force to complete a report for the Congress justifying the need for decreasing the missile level as part of our strategic defense posture.

Earlier this year, the DoD produced a recommendation as part of their Quadrennial Defense Review to reduce the ICBM force by 50 missiles. The DoD intends to reduce the force by eliminating one squadron at Malmstrom AFB near Great Falls, Montana.

"We were successful in delaying this unwise decision by one year and requiring DoD to better explain why this is needed," said Senator Burns. "From the beginning we felt that this proposal was more about cutting the budget than revising our strategic policy. At a time when we are focused on fighting terrorism and securing our nation I think it is more important to secure these missiles than to start eliminating them."